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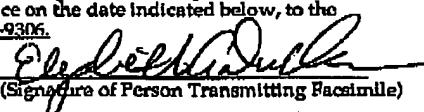
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May 19, 2005

(Date)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

H. Hoshino, et al.

Title: CURRENT-CARRYING/HEATING  
APPARATUS OF LIQUID FOOD

Serial No.: 10/774,961

Filed On: February 9, 2005

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Examiner: Philip Leung  
Art Unit: 3742  
Confirmation No. 5569  
(Our Docket No. 4980-0003)

Hartford, Connecticut, May 19, 2005

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ELECTION

By way of the Office Action dated April 19, 2005, the Examiner issued a restriction/election requirement asking the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner indicated that no claims were generic, and identified the following patentably-distinct species: FIG. 1, FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, FIG. 5, FIG. 6, FIGS. 7-8, FIG. 9, and FIG. 10.

In response, the Applicant hereby elects the species shown in FIG. 1 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The following claims are readable on the species of FIG. 1: Claims 1, 4 and 7.

Regarding the issue of generic claims, the Applicant notes that Claim 1, while not necessarily generic to all the species, is generic as to the species of

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FROM-McCormick, Paulding, & Huber

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T-527 P.002/002 F-089

Serial No. 10/774,961

Office Action dated: 04/19/05

Response to Election/Restriction dated: 05/19/05

FIGS. 1-10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that if Claim 1 is found allowable, Claims 2-12 would all be allowable as presenting a reasonable number of species linked by a generic claim. 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

If any extension of time for the accompanying response is required, the Applicant requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.17(a) to (d), which may be required to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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